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ASHFORD

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

year 1972

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE

LOCAL AUTHORITY, 1972



Medical Officer of Health

MARSHALL, J.

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

HAMMOND, S.F.

M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

PRATT, S.

M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

COULING, S.W.

M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

WOOD, G.A.

M.A.P.H.I.

ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, KENT

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of
Health for the year 1972

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1972.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 36,130 an increase of 450 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Rate

The number of live births was 688 (351 M. 337 F.) which was a decrease of 22 from that of the previous year. The crude birth-rate was accordingly 19.0 which after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution, becomes 17.7 compared with that of 14.8 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

The number of stillbirths was 4 (3 M. 1 F.) and the corresponding rate was 6.0 in comparison with that of 12.0 for England and Wales.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Fifteen infant deaths were registered nine of which were under four weeks of age, and the corresponding infantile mortality rate was 13.0 compared with that of 12.0 for England and Wales.

The hard core of causes of Perinatal Mortality (i.e. stillbirths and infant deaths under one week of age) is prematurity, asphyxia and atelectasis, birth injuries and congenital malformations, and the chief maternal factor is toxæmia of pregnancy.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was nil, as there were no deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

Total Deaths and Death Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 428 (226 M. 202 F.) and the corresponding crude death rate was 11.8 which after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, becomes 13.0 compared with that of 12.1 for England and Wales.

The chief group cause of deaths was Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System, which are natural ultimate causes of death amongst the aged and of these there were 205.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart was the cause of 114 (70 M. 44 F.) in the following age groups:- 3 between 35 - 44, 10 between 45 - 54; 16 between 55 - 64; 38 between 65 - 74 and 17 over 75 years of age. Eighty-five of those deaths were over 65 years, including forty-seven over 75 years and it would seem that a degenerative process is one of the causative factors, although the cause is still obscure and many deaths occur in middle-age.

Coronary Atheroma of the Heart is also not an uncommon cause of death, often unsuspected in life, as revealed by post-mortem examinations.

Cancer, as invariably in previous years, was the second highest cause of deaths of which there were eighty-seven in the following age groups:- 1 between 1 - 4; 1 between 5 - 14; 1 between 25 - 34; 3 between 35 - 44; 7 between 45 - 54; 22 between 55 - 64; 34 between 65 - 74 and 18 over 75 years of age. The majority of the deaths were over 65 years. It is reasonable to assume that many patients seek medical examination too late for treatment which is curative in most cases if the disease is not too advanced.

Cancer of the Lung Bronchus caused 26 deaths (21 M. 5 F.) in the following age-groups:- 2 between 45 - 54; 8 between 55 - 64; 12 between 65 - 74 and 4 over 75 years. Cancer of the Lung/Bronchus occurs in earlier age-groups than Cancer of other sites excluding Cancer of the breast, and it may be assumed that the inhalation of tobacco smoke is a precipitating factor in those who are predisposed to the disease.

Cancer of the Breast was the cause of 4 F. deaths in the following age-groups:- 1 between 35 - 44; 2 between 55 - 64; 1 between 65 - 74 years of age. It is reasonable to assume that medical advice was sought too late, as Cancer in this site is comparatively easy to diagnose.

Cancer of the stomach caused 5 (2 M. 3 F.) deaths in the following age-groups:- 1 between 55 - 64; 1 between 65 - 74 and 3 over 75 years.

Cancer causes a relentless toll of human lives all over the world and is invariably the second highest cause of deaths of which heart and arterial diseases are the chief cause; the majority of the latter are due to old age and coronary thrombosis. However, many deaths from Cancer occur in younger age-groups, usually over the age of 40 years. The majority are in all probability due to delay by patients in seeking medical advice, having regard also to the fact that the onset of the disease is insidious or latent.

It is an old adage that 'prevention is better than cure' and there is sufficient modern knowledge about the causes of some forms of Cancer to enable their prevention.

Modern surgery and X-rays and other radiations used, singly or in combination, have transformed the treatment of this group of diseases.

Almost all skin Cancers and over 80% of Cancers of the Cervix of the Uterus can be cured if they are treated early. There were two deaths from Cancer of the Uterus in the following age-groups:- 1 between 55 - 64 and 1 over 75 years.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there were no exceptional mortality.

The Infectious Diseases

Measles

Seventeen cases of this disease were notified during the year compared with two hundred and twenty-two during the previous year. This infection is still endemic and prevalent although vaccination is an inhibiting factor in the prevention of larger outbreaks; the serious complications of former years are now relatively infrequent and when they do occur are usually treated successfully by specific anti-biotics.

Whooping Cough

Five cases were notified compared with twenty-four in the previous year. In former years outbreaks of this distressful children's disease were common and there was a large number of deaths chiefly due to Broncho-pneumonia amongst infants.

Scarlet Fever

Three cases were notified compared with two in the previous year. This illness is now mild and its formerly serious complications are becoming infrequent; if any do occur, treatment by a specific anti-biotic is invariably successful.

Meningitis

Three cases were notified. This serious infection was common during the War when a large number of soldiers was billeted in the Urban area, but since then cases have been few and isolated. Occasionally isolated cases of Aseptic or Virus infection occur.

Food Poisoning

No cases of this illness occurred throughout the District during the year which is an excellent tribute to the invaluable routine preventive work carried through by the Public Health Inspectorate.

Infective Jaundice

Five cases were notified compared with one in the previous year. Outbreaks are rare due chiefly to the generally higher standards of hygiene to-day.

Tuberculosis

Only one new case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified. The patient who was over 65 years was probably one who had had the infection for X number of years and who had escaped diagnosis. New cases amongst youth are uncommon to-day compared with the relatively larger numbers of previous decades and is a reflection of the valuable work of the Tuberculosis and Mass Radiography Services, including B.C.G. vaccination.

Also there was only one case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis which in past decades was a cause of many deaths and disabilities. The pasteurization of milk has been the principal preventive factor.

Influenza

There was no outbreak of this dangerous infection throughout the winter.

A new era in the history of the prevalence of serious Infectious Diseases has been reached, in prevention and treatment. For example, the remarkable advance in this Century of medical science, with emphasis on the last forty years, has prevented by vaccination and immunisation lethal and disabling infections such as Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria and Whooping Cough and recently Measles and German Measles, and by treatment with specific Anti-biotics and Sulpha drugs, diseases caused by bacteria such as Acute Meningitis, the Pneumonias, Puerperal Sepsis, Scarlet Fever, Erysipelas, Typhoid, Paratyphoid Fevers, and Food Poisoning and others.

All virus infections per se do not respond to treatment by the Anti-biotics or Sulpha drugs, but fortunately serious secondary complications caused by bacteria usually respond successfully to treatment.

Vaccination against the virus of Measles and German Measles (for girls aged between 11 and 14 years) has more recently been introduced, and it is expected that the biennial out-breaks which occur will be eventually controlled. Vaccination is available at the Child Welfare Centre and from the Family Doctor.

Vaccination against Smallpox was discontinued at Child Welfare Centres on the 30th July, 1971 as the Department of Health and Social Security consider mass vaccination of the child population to be unnecessary.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your support of and interest in the Department and also the Staff for their very efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Central Public Health Office,
14, Church Road,
Ashford,
Kent.

Tel. No:- Ashford 24411

SECTION A

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT FOR 1972

AREA 5,719 acres

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF

The Resident Population 36,130

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ACCORDING

TO THE RATE BOOKS 12,401

NUMBER OF BUSINESS PREMISES 1,262

RATEABLE VALUE (1-1-73) £4,705,925

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY

RATE (1-1-73) £47,000

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Ashford is both an agricultural and an industrial town and a business and shopping centre for the large rural community which surrounds it. It merits importance by containing the largest agricultural market in Kent and in having a railway junction where five lines converge, associated with which is a Carriage and Wagon Works, and Electrical Carriage Repair and Inspection Shops. There is a constantly increasing number of factories, including Iron Foundry, Printing Works, Agricultural and Vehicle Repair Shops, Flour Mills, Electronics, Light Engineering and Electrical Engineering, Ordnance Depot, Bread, Cereal Products and Jam Factory, Starch/Glucose conversion factory, a large Food Processing and Dried Foods Factory, a Cosmetic Manufacturer, a Perfumery, Glass Scientific Instrument Firm, Graphic Art Reproducer, Wood Worker and Furniture Makers, Plastic Manufacturer and Recovery, Plating and Rubber Moulding firms.

In addition, Ashford is becoming a centre for office development which is rapidly transforming the town's skyline.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

					ASHFORD	ENGLAND
					U.D.	& WALES
	Total	M.	F.			
1. <u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	688	351	337	Birth Rate	19.0	14.8
(a) Legitimate	655	334	321	per 1,000 (Adjusted		
(b) Illegitimate	33	17	16	estimated	Rate)	
				resident	17.7	
				population		
2. <u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	4	3	1	Rate per	6.0	12.0
(a) Legitimate	3	2	1	1,000 total		
(b) Illegitimate	1	1	-	(live &		
				still births		
3. <u>TOTAL LIVE & STILLBIRTHS</u>	692	354	338			
4. <u>DEATHS</u>	428	226	202	Death Rate	11.8	12.1
				per 1,000 (Adjusted		
				resident	Rate)	
				population	13.0	
5. <u>DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY CHILD BIRTH ABORTION</u>	-	-	-	Rate per	Nil	Not
				1,000 (live		Availabl
				& still)		
				births		
6. <u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE</u>	15	11	4	Rate per	22.0	17.0
				1,000 live		
				births		
(a) Legitimate	14	10	4	Rate per	21.0	17.0
				1,000 live		
				births		
				(legitimate)		
(b) Illegitimate	1	1	-	Rate per	30.0	21.0
				1,000 live		
				births		
				(illegitimate)		
7. <u>PERINATAL MORTALITY</u>				Rate per	17.0	22.0
(Stillbirths & deaths				1,000 total		
of infants under	4	3	1	births		
1 week)						
8. <u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS</u>						5%

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1972

	<u>All Causes</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
		226	202
1. Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	-	1	
2. Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	1	
3. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	3	
4. Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	4	5	
5. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	21	5	
6. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	4	
7. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2	
8. Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	5	-	
9. Leukaemia	-	2	
10. Other Malignant Neoplasms	19	13	
11. Diabetes Mellitus	1	2	
12. Avitaminoses, etc.	-	1	
13. Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	2	1	
14. Anaemias	-	1	
15. Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	2	
16. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	3	2	
17. Hypertensive Disease	3	2	
18. Ischaemic Heart Disease	70	44	
19. Other Forms of Heart Disease	14	20	
20. Cerebrovascular Disease	22	35	
21. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	7	
22. Influenza	3	1	
23. Pneumonia	11	18	
24. Bronchitis & Emphysema	8	3	
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	4	
26. Peptic Ulcer	1	-	
27. Intestinal Obstruction & Hernia	-	1	
28. Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1	
29. Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	2	
30. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	3	
31. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	
32. Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	5	
33. Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	2	
34. Congenital Anomalies	2	2	
35. Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	5	-	
36. Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	1	
37. Motor Vehicle Accidents	7	2	
38. All Other Accidents	7	1	
39. Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	2	
40. All Other External Causes	1	1	

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1972

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Measles	17	-	-
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Infective Jaundice	5	-	-
Meningitis	3	2	-

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

<u>DISEASES</u>	Under 1 Yr.	1	2-4	5-9	10- 14	15- 24	25+	Un- Known
Measles	1	4	4	6	-	1	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1972

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>			<u>Deaths</u>			<u>Total Cases on Register</u>		
	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non- Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non- Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non- Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	147	96	29
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-			
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-			
15 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-			
25 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-			
35 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-			
45 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-			
55 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-			
65+...	1	-	-	-	-	-			
TOTAL	1	-	-	-	-	-	147	96	29

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924 and
Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 172)

No action was necessary during the year in accordance with the above powers.
There were no deaths from Pulmonary or Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis of patients
who had not been notified as suffering from this disease.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following table shows figures for 1972 based on the return sent to the Department of Health and Social Security.

Year of Birth	Primary					Re-Inforcing			
	Triple Antigen	Diphtheria	Tetanus	Measles	Polio-myelitis	Rubella	Triple Antigen	Diphtheria	Tetanus
1972	4	1	-	3	9	-	-	-	-
1971	433	8	-	115	451	-	-	1	-
1970	198	11	2	161	226	-	-	4	1
1969	19	7	1	57	49	-	-	8	-
1968	4	1	2	26	7	-	11	27	1
1967	-	1	-	14	-	-	1	215	2
1965 - 1966	-	1	3	11	-	-	1	93	6
1956 - 1964	-	-	24	2	-	413	-	15	404
Total	658	30	32	389	742	413	13	363	414
									1188
									524
									97
									539
									28
									97

Smallpox vaccinations at County Clinics were discontinued as from 31-7-1971.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The following table shows the number of X-ray films taken and results obtained during the regular visits to the Ashford Vicarage Lane Car Park.

Vicarage Lane Car Park - Ashford - January - June 1972

EXAMINEE GROUP	FILMS TAKEN			ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS			INACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS			CANCER OF LUNGS		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
G.P. Cases	92	78	170	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	1
B.C.G.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public	204	318	522	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	-	2
Essential Users Teachers & Education Staff	20	57	77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	317	453	770	-	-	-	4	-	4	3	-	3

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The following table shows the number of X-ray films taken and results obtained during the regular visits to the Ashford Vicarage Lane Car Park.

Vicarage Lane Car Park - Ashford - July - December 1972

EXAMINEE GROUP	FILMS TAKEN			ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS			INACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS			CANCER OF LUNGS		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
G.P. Cases	58	51	109	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	2
Public	242	293	535	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Essential Users	19	61	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers & Educa- tion Staff	319	405	724	-	-	-	2	1	3	2	-	2

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Year Ending 31 December 1972.

Treatment Centre - Ashford Hospital

Local Health Authority area of residence of patient	Number of new cases in the year			
	Totals all Conditions	Syphilis Primary & Secondary	Other	Gonorrhoea
Ashford U.D.	81	-	-	23
			33	25

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE DISTRICT

1. Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Department of Health and Social Security and is situated in Preston Hall British Legion Village, Maidstone, and provides valuable services on behalf of the Public Health Departments of District Councils. For example, samples of water, milk, ice cream and other food-stuffs are regularly examined, and in relation to Infectious Diseases their bacteriological and virological reports are of great value.

Local General Hospitals also have their own Laboratories, which provide valuable service to the Consultants and to the Practitioners.

2. Ambulance and Hospital Car Service

The County Council administers this service throughout Kent. The Ambulance Station is situated at Silverhill Road, Willesborough, where seven ambulances and three sitting-case cars are garaged. The ambulance personnel numbers one Station Officer and one Assistant Station Officer. The thirty Driver/Attendants are supplemented by twenty Hospital Car Driver volunteers, whose devotion to duty merits appreciation.

3. Treatment Centres and Clinics

All maternity and Child Health, School and Dental Clinics are administered by the County Council.

The following Clinics are held in Ashford:-

(i) Vicarage Lane

This is the central and chief clinic and is contained in an 'ad hoc' building. The outlying clinics are complementary.

Sessions are held on Tuesday and Thursday of each week from 2.00 p.m. The Doctor attends once weekly on Tuesdays.

(ii) Women's Institute Hall, Church Rd., North Willesborough

Sessions are held at 2.00 p.m. on alternate Fridays.

(iii) Women's Institute Hall, Faversham Rd., Kennington

Sessions are held at 2.00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

(iv) Brookfield Hall, South Ashford

Sessions are held at 2.00 p.m. on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday of each month.

School Medical Service Clinics

The following clinics of the School Medical Service are held at the main Vicarage Lane Clinic.

- (a) School Clinic
- (b) Dental Clinic
- (c) Ophthalmic Clinic
- (d) Speech Therapy Clinic

(e) Orthopaedic Clinic - this clinic is held at Ashford Hospital, is administered by the Regional Hospitals Board and is held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 2.00 p.m.

Venereal Diseases Clinic

This clinic is held at Ashford Hospital at the following times:-

Males - Wednesdays 9.30 - 11.0 a.m. (Emergency only)

Females - Wednesdays 9.30 - 11.0 a.m.

Chiropody Service, Chiropody Clinic, Vicarage Lane, Ashford

This service is provided for men over 65 years and women over 60 years and for physically handicapped persons and for expectant mothers. Appointments are made through the Principal Welfare Officer, K.C.C. Health Dept., 'Compton House', Elwick Rd., Ashford. (Tel. Ashford 22121)

Nursing Aids and Requisites

Nursing aids and requisites can be obtained from:-
Senior Nursing Officer, 30, Wellesley Rd. Tel. Ashford 20428
Red Cross, New Rents, Ashford - Tel. Ashford 20356.

Cytology Clinic (Cervical Smear Clinic)

This is held at the Vicarage Lane Clinic (Mondays but by appointment only). (Tel. No. Ashford 24915)

Chest Clinic

This clinic is held at Ashford Hospital on every 3rd Monday from 2.0 p.m. and every Tuesday from 9.0 a.m. to 12 noon and Friday from 9.0 a.m. Appointments must be made through the Lenham Chest Hospital. (Tel. Lenham 314).

Family Planning Clinic

This is held at the Vicarage Lane Clinic on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6.30 - 8.30 p.m. also on Thursdays from 9.30 - 12 noon.

Geriatric Clinic - Ashford Hospital

Dr. Stevens hold the above clinic for out-patients on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 1.30 p.m.

Hospitals

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) Ashford General | - Accommodation 115 beds. |
| (b) Willesborough General | - Accommodation 109 beds. |
| (c) Warren Hospital | - Accommodation 14 beds. |

4. Private Nursing Homes

There is one registered Nursing Home in the area accommodating for patients.

5. Home Nursing and Midwifery Service

The County Council administers these services. The standard of service given by the Nurses is excellent and there is complete co-operation between them and the Practitioners. The majority of patients nursed in their homes are elderly and chronic sick, many of whom are awaiting beds in Chronic Sick Hospitals which are still inadequate to cope with the waiting list.

6. The Maternity and Child Welfare Service

This service is also administered by the County Council. There are four Child Welfare Centres within the District, which are conveniently situated for mothers, and the attendances are well maintained.

7. The Domestic Help Service, the Family Care Service,
Evening and Night Attendant Service and the Family
Welfare Service

These services are administered by the County Council and have become a very important health service in the home. Applications for assistance should be made to the local Domestic Help Organiser at 'Compton House', Elwick Rd., Ashford. Tel. No. Ashford 22121.

Home Helps are paid at the rate of 47.68p per hour and there is a sliding scale of charges based on the family income of the applicants - the maximum charge being 52p per hour.

8. Citizens' Advice Bureau
25A, High Street, Ashford

Hours:- Mondays & Tuesdays - 10.0 a.m. - 12.0 noon
2.0 p.m. - 4.0 p.m.

Wednesdays - 10.0 a.m. - 12.0 noon

Thursdays & Fri. - 2.0 p.m. - 4.0 p.m.

Tel. No. 26185

9. Mass Radiography Service

The above mobile unit visits regularly at the Vicarage Lane Car Park, Ashford, on the first and third Thursday of every month from 10.0 a.m. - 11.0 a.m.

HOUSING

The number of dwellings completed during the year 1972/73 was as follows:-

	<u>Completed</u> <u>1972/73</u>	<u>Previous</u> <u>Years</u>
A. <u>Pre-war Schemes</u>		
<u>Beaver Lane, Kingsnorth Rd. &</u> <u>Hampden Rd.</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	10
(b) 3 bedroom type	-	405
(c) 4 bedroom type	-	20
<u>Norwood Gardens</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	10
(b) 3 " "	-	40
(c) 4 " "	-	6
<u>Willesborough</u>		
(a) 3 bedroom type	-	168
(b) 2 " "	-	32
<u>Kennington</u>		
(a) 3 bedroom type	-	42
B. <u>Post War Schemes</u>		
<u>Woolreeds and Musgrove</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	49
(b) 3 " "	-	458
(c) 4 " "	-	26
(d) Bed/Sitter Flats	-	22
(e) 2 Bedroom Flats	-	58
<u>Court Wurtin & Arcon</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	2
(b) Bed/Sitter flats	-	4
(c) 1 bedroom flats	-	6
(d) 2 bedroom flats	-	10
(e) 2 bedroom (O.P.D.s.)	-	5
(f) 1 bedroom (O.P.D.s.)	12	-

	<u>Completed</u> <u>1972/73</u>	<u>Previous</u> <u>Years</u>
<u>Court Wurtin & Arcon (continued)</u>		
(g) 3 bedroom type	40	-
(h) 4 " "	16	-
<u>Beaver Court O.A.P. Hostel</u>		
(a) 1 bedroom (O.P.D.s.)	-	12
(b) Bed/sitter flats	-	20
(c) 2 bedroom house	-	1
<u>Beaver Green</u> <u>(Including Beaver Farm & Elm Place)</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom houses	-	70
(b) 3 bedroom houses	-	486
(c) 4 bedroom houses	-	13
(d) Bed/sitter flats	-	4
(e) 1 bedroom flats	-	1
(f) 2 bedroom flats	-	91
(g) 1 bedroom (O.P.D.s.)	-	16
<u>Brookfield South</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom flats	-	71
(b) 3 bedroom houses	-	205
(c) 4 bedroom houses	-	11
(d) 3 bedroom 3 storey	-	105
<u>Repton</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom houses	-	30
(b) 3 bedroom houses	-	64
(c) 2 bedroom flats	-	48
<u>Godfrey Walk</u>		
(a) Bed/sitter flats	-	13
(b) 1 bedroom flats	-	27
(c) 2 bedroom flats	-	28
<u>Croft Road</u>		
(a) Bed/sitter flats	-	2
(b) 1 bedroom flats	-	3
(c) 2 bedroom flats	-	1

	<u>Completed</u> <u>1972/73</u>	<u>Previous</u> <u>Years</u>
<u>Willesborough (including Osborne Rd., Bentley Rd., Aylesford Place, Mead, Gladstone, Milne Roads & Waterside)</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom houses	-	34
(b) 3 bedroom houses	24	251
(c) 4 bedroom houses	2	12
(d) 1 bedroom flats	-	12
(e) 2 bedroom flats	-	20
(f) 3 bedroom flats	-	1
(g) 1 bedroom (O.P.D.s)	9	34
<u>Kennington (Burton)</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom houses	-	58
(b) 3 bedroom houses	-	98
(c) 2 bedroom flats	-	8
(d) 1 bedroom (O.P.D.s)	-	12
<u>Kennington (Bockhanger)</u>		
(a) 3 bedroom houses	-	158
(b) 4 bedroom houses	-	34
(c) 1 bedroom flats	-	34
(d) 2 bedroom maisonettes	-	70
(e) 3 bedroom maisonettes	-	66
<u>Kennington (Grosvenor)</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom flats	-	19
(b) 3 bedroom houses	-	82
(c) 4 bedroom houses	-	5
(d) 1 bedroom (O.P.D.s.)	-	14
<u>Stanhope</u>		
(a) 1 bedroom flats	-	132
(b) 2 bedroom maisonettes	-	264
(c) 3 bedroom houses	-	685
(d) 4 bedroom houses	-	236

Analysis of Applications for Council Houses

Living in Ashford - Adequately housed

Retired persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Single persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Childless couples	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
One child families	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Two/three child families	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Four or more child families	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Living in Ashford - Inadequately housed

Retired person	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Single persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Childless couples	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
One child families	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Two/three child families	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Four or more child families	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - Adequately housed

Retired persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Single persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Childless couples	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
One child families	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Two/three child families	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Four or more families	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - Inadequately housed

Retired persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Single persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Childless couples	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
One child families	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Two/three child families	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Four or more child families	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Total applicants - 818

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORATE
FOR THE YEAR 1972

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting my Annual Report on local environmental aspects of the Health Inspection Service during 1972, I must express my apologies for the brevity of its narrative which is due to recurrent staff shortage and also to the demands made by preparations for re-organization.

Increased activity (clearance and redevelopment, new roads, new factories) in the district has brought a number of environmental problems. It is clear that in the future consideration of the control of noise from all sources must receive greater attention and staff must be adequate and trained.

My sincere thanks are given to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and to my colleagues and staff for their ready co-operation.

Your obedient Servant

S.F. HAMMOND

Chief Public Health Inspector

GENERAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF VISITS

1. Housing

Visits

Dwellings re. repairs	476
No. of dwellings made fit	147
Dwellings re. Demolition, Closure etc.....	19
Clearance Areas	69
General Survey & Assessment	26
Improvements (a) On tenant's request (Sec.19)..	8
(b) Area inspections.....	322
(c) Routine (voluntary) grants....	385
Multi-let accommodation.....	23
Overcrowding, survey	17
Adequacy of accommodation (for rehousing following application)	121
Qualification Certificates (rent control),.....	12
Rent Act (a) Certificates of Disrepair.....	-
(b) Remedying of Defects	-
(c) Miscellaneous	

2. Food

Abattoir.....	425
Bakehouses and Depots	23
Butchers	75
Catering Establishments & Clubs	64
Dairies	3
Fish (incl. fried)	17
General Shops	54
Self Service and Super Market	24
Licensed Premises	19
Market Food Stalls & Auctions	116
Mobile Stalls & Delivery Vans	43
Other Food Trades	41
Vending Machines	3
Registered Premises (Sec. 16) incl. above.....	52
Food (fitness) Inspections.....	233

3. General Public Health Matters

Rat & Mice destruction (Visits by P.H.I.s)....	39
Other vermin (Visits by P.H.I.s).....	28
Dirty houses	31

Offensive (a) Accumulations	29
(b) Odours	26
Nuisance from (a) Keeping of animals.....	20
(b) Dust.....	2
Control of tents, vans and sheds	1
Caravans	1
Aged and infirm persons	4
Infectious diseases	25
Food Poisoning	3
Drains and sewers (including cesspools & septic tanks	295
Swimming Baths.....	28
Water Supplies	83
Agriculture, safety & welfare.....	-
Clean Air (a) Observations (trade)	25
(b) Contravention (chimneys)	2
(c) Contraventions (trade) bonfires.....	30
(d) Nuisance from (domestic) bonfires ...	11
(e) Atmospheric Pollution Station.....	292
(f) Miscellaneous	13
Noise (i) Sources of Complaint	22
(ii) Number of Visits	62

4. Places of Work

Factories with power	43
Factories non power	1
Building & Engineering Works	3
Outworkers	1
Workplaces	5
Offices	14
Shops	83
Warehouses	6
Catering Establishments	10

5. Miscellaneous

Shops Act (hours etc.).....	7
Fireguard (Heating Appliances)	-
Miscellaneous	390

H O U S I N G

Repairs or Clearance of Unfit Houses

In view of the acute local housing shortage, aggravated by a gap in the Council's house building programme and made worse by the clearance of about seventy houses in the town centre to make way for the inner ring road and other re-development, limited progress was made to complete the 'slum' clearance programme. A terrace of six cottages in Beaver Lane were declared a Clearance Area timed to coincide with the opportunity to re-accommodate the (mainly elderly) occupants on the new Council estate (Arcon site) completed during the year and located very close by the old cottages. Subsequently a Compulsory Purchase Order made on the site was confirmed by the Minister.

The housing shortage helped in some instances by the availability of generous grants, has led to a number of substandard and borderline-unfit dwellings to be repaired at substantial cost, in order to give them an extended 'life'. The year has seen a sharp decline in the standard of accommodation available at a price which can be afforded, especially by young couples. Cottage property has come to fetch 'famine' prices.

The services of builders locally are at a premium and delays in securing repairs and improvements have occurred. In no instance has recourse to legal proceedings been necessary in order to secure repairs.

Growing concern was expressed by the Council at the continued lack of progress in dealing with the future of the Newtown Estate, originally owned by British Rail Corporation and still the subject of negotiations over possible redevelopment by the present owners with the County Planning Authority. In order to remove the increasing squalor of the old (mainly vacant) houses facing the Green, a Clearance Order was made and submitted to the Minister. The owners, however, started clearance operations on the totally empty terraces without awaiting for

confirmation of the Order. A number of fit houses on Newtown stand empty and must be a bitter sight to people lacking a home of their own. In the meantime minimal maintenance work only is carried out on the occupied Estate houses.

Multi-let Accommodation

No further 'direction' notices (to limit the number of houses or persons) were imposed during the year. Where the Housing Manager notifies details of applications for rehousing received from persons living in multi-let accommodation, it is extremely helpful in bringing unsatisfactory, even dangerous, accommodation to light, and which might otherwise (especially in times of acute shortage of accommodation) not be identified.

It has not been considered necessary to operate a scheme for compulsory registration of the multi-let house in the Urban District.

Houses in clearance areas and unfit houses elsewhere

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED	IN OR ADJOINING CLEARANCE AREAS DECLARED under Section 42 of the Hsg. Act, 1957.	Unfit for human habitation.	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
		Included by reason of bad arrangement.	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
		On land acquired under Sec. 43(2) Housing Act, 1957.	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
		As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 16 or Sec. 17(1) Housing Act, 1957.	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	23
	NOT IN OR ADJOINING CLEARANCE AREAS	Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health.	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
		Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts.	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
				Nil
				Nil

(Continued) A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED	NOT IN OR ADJOINING CLEARANCE AREAS	Houses included in unfitness orders made under para 2 of the Second Schedule to the Land Compensation Act, 1961.	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
				Nil
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED in pur- suance of closing orders or under- takings	Number of houses included above which were previously reported as closed in pursuance of closing orders or undertakings.	Under Secs. 16(4), 17(1) & 35(1) Housing Act, 1957 and Sec. 26 Housing Act, 1961.	In or adjoining clearance areas Not in or adjoining clearance area	Nil
				Nil
				1
				1
				Nil
C. NUMBER OF PERSONS DISPLACED	PARTS OF BUILDINGS CLOSED under Sec. 18 Housing Act, 1957	Under Secs. 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957.	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
				Nil
				1
				4
				10
	From houses to be demolished in or adjoining clearance areas From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance areas From houses to be closed From parts of buildings to be closed			Nil
				Nil
				Nil

D.	NUMBER OF FAMILIES DISPLACED	From houses to be demolished in or adjoining clearance areas	2
		From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance areas	5
		From houses to be closed	Nil
		From parts of buildings to be closed	Nil
E.	UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT	After informal action by local authority.	147
		After formal notice under Secs. 9(1) and 16(1), Housing Act, 1957	Nil
		After formal notice under Public Health Acts	Nil
		Previously included in a clearance order which has been or will be modified or revoked under Sec. 24 Housing Act 61	Nil
		Previously included in a demolition order which has been or will be revoked under Sec. 24 Housing Act, 1957	2
		Previously included in a closing order which has been or will be determined under Sec. 27 Housing Act, 1957	4
F.	OTHER HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED	After formal notice under Public Health Act	1
		After formal action under Section 9 (1A) Housing Act, 1957	Nil
		After informal action by local authority	Nil
			137

G. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act 1957)	Retained for temporary accommodation	Under Section 48	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
		Under Section 17(2)	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
		Under Section 46	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
	Licensed for temporary accommodation under Section 34 or 53			Nil
	Number of houses			Nil
H. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT	Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed orders or compulsory purchase orders		Number of houses	Nil
			Number of occupants	Nil

Improvements

Public interest in the various grants available under the Housing Act, 1969 has been sustained and use has been made of the opportunity afforded by the Act to allow maturity loans to secure improvements and repairs where owner/occupiers (especially elderly ones) would not find it possible to secure a mortgage on the usual terms. Assistance has been given in appropriate cases towards achieving the 'full potential' of existing houses - such is the widened scope of the improvement grant scheme.

The number of repairs and improvement schemes prepared by the Inspectors for the guidance of the public was 168. Unfortunately, building costs have risen quite steeply and some would-be-improvers-of-dwellings find that even with grant assistance they cannot afford the expenses involved. The fixed grant figure of Standard Grants in particular now seldom meets half the cost of the works involved - which originally was the intention for the average case.

In order to stimulate interest in and to better inform the public on improvement grants, an illustrated handbook was prepared in the Department and made freely available. Advertisements paid for by local builders and merchants covered the cost of production. The cover incorporated cartoons produced earlier to help publicise grants, and which received a favourable reception.

Lists of enquirers to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the subject of grants are received from time to time. These are individually followed-up by offering the services of the Improvement Officers to discuss improvements on site.

It is suggested that insufficient emphasis is popularly placed on the value of insulation to conserve fossil fuels and also reduce atmospheric pollution. The heat insulation of roof spaces or top floor ceilings, and of walls are of particular value and have the added advantage of reducing or eliminating condensation.

Improvement Grant Summary

Type of Grant	Houses Improved & Grants Paid	<u>Applications Approved</u>		
		Owner/ Occupied	Tenanted	Totals
1. Conversion	2 (2)	- (-)	3 (2)	3 (2)
2. Discretionary	39(19)	34(28)	14 (5)	48(33)
3. Standard	48(44)	31(35)	12(22)	43(57)
4. Standard with plusages	29(29)	26(21)	7 (8)	33(29)
Total	118(94)	91(84)	36(37)	127(121)

(Figures in brackets indicate 1971 figures)

Delegated powers to deal with Standard Grant applications operated satisfactorily. Some forty were thus authorised. One 'special' grant was made.

Applications for Rehousing

Where information is received from the Housing Manager requesting a report on home conditions, it provides a welcome opportunity to investigate the condition of the housing accommodation likely to be amongst the least satisfactory in the area and to enable suitable action to be taken to remedy shortcomings. During the year 85 reports on applications were made, additional points being awarded on public health and medical grounds where considered appropriate. The number of applications thus referred has fallen from 161 in 1970 to 101 in 1971.

Rent Acts and Qualification Certificates

There have been no applications for certificates under the Rent Act 1965. On the other hand Qualification Certificates have been applied for during the year in 22 instances (issued in 19 cases) where the house already complied with the

prescribed standard as to fitness and amenities. Where amenity was lacking some eight 'combined' applications for certificate and grant were received and nine certificates were issued on completion of improvement grant and repair work during the same period. These matters were dealt with under delegated arrangements, which worked smoothly.

Overcrowding

There were no instances of statutory overcrowding reported during the year.

The Abattoir

The Health Inspectors are responsible for the inspection of all meat processed in the Abattoir and continued a one hundred percent inspection service.

There has been a small reduction in the number of cattle slaughtered, influenced no doubt by the steep rise in the cost of beef, but an increase in the figure for pigs handled.

The trend is for a larger proportion of the meat trade to be in the hands of meat wholesalers, and fewer butchers than ever buy their weekly requirements 'on the hoof' at the Market and individually arrange for transport and slaughter.

The Inspectors have been co-operating with a practical research project into the incidence of the round worm (ascaris) in pigs which is responsible for a substantial wastage of livers.

Notifications are received from the Ministry of Agriculture County Veterinary Service of any incidence of food poisoning among food animals on farms in the area and these are noted especially in relation to animals receiving emergency slaughter. No animals from known infected farms were received however and no cases of food poisoning are known to have been contracted from meat processed at the Abattoir.

(See next page for table showing cattle inspected and condemned)

Cattle Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	833 (912)	- (-)	103 (175)	12 (27)	1387 (980)	11563 (10948)
Number <u>not</u> inspected	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1 (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	3 (4)	8 (17)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	80 (74)	- (-)	32 (42)	- (1)	27 (54)	768 (910)
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	32 (31)
<u>Cysticerci</u>						
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	3 (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Generalised and totally condemned	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

(Figures for the year 1971 are shown in brackets)

Poultry

There are no poultry slaughtering and packing stations in the Urban Area. The largest single outlet for poultry, game and rabbits are the weekly auction sales at Ashford (dead stock) Market. Inspection was made of all foodstuffs presented. The number of birds auctioned was 1,487 (5,070 in 1971) of which only 12 chicken and one turkey were rejected and surrendered voluntarily at the regular inspections at which excellent co-operation is received from the Auctioneers. The number of rabbits was 1,335 (2,719 in 1971) of which only 5 had to be rejected.

The standard of the poultry sold both at the Market Auctions and in the butcher's shops has greatly improved in recent years. Greater care however needs to be exercised in regard to oven-ready birds. In the first place by butchers to ensure that frozen birds are kept hard-frozen until sold, and, once thawed or partially thawed to be disposed of immediately, whilst still fit for food. In the home the need is to follow the producer's instructions if any, and in any event to have the poultry completely thawed before cooking, otherwise the roasting of partly defrosted birds involves a definite risk of food poisoning.

Milk Supplies

There are three dairies and sixty-two registered vendors of milk. Routine sampling is carried out in course of delivery to the customers, with the results given in the following table:-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Untreated (*Goat)	1*	-
Pasteurised	30	1
U.H.T.	1	-
Sterilised	-	-

Liaison is maintained with the County Council (who are kept informed of changes in registration (or new ones)) and applications for licences to deal in specially designated milks are passed to them at the same time as a registration is made of a new milk distributor.

Cream

Only three samples of cream were taken for biochemical examination. These were raw (unheated) creams, two from the Market Auctions - one of which was unsatisfactory, and investigated through the Chief Public Health Inspector of the Local Authority of the producer's area.

Ice Cream

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream is 82 and in addition it is also sold in clubs, schools and catering establishments. Sampling of ice cream was concentrated largely on soft and 'loose' ice cream. The results obtained, given in the table below are generally satisfactory, but below the standard achieved last year. The Grade IV samples relate in each case to ice cream sold 'loose' in catering establishments, and is due (at least in part) to there being no supply of quaternary ammonium sterilant available in small quantities for 'sanitising' ice cream servers.

Grade	Mobiles				Premises			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Soft Ice Cream	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other loose	-	-	-	-	31	7	5	3
Wrapped	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

The figures indicate a need for more sampling of itinerant vendors of ice cream.

Food and Drugs Act

There are thirty-four premises registered for the preparation and manufacture of sausages and preserved foods. These include food factories, butchers, fried fish shops, pie manufacturers shops and licensed premises with rotiseries and 'take-away' food premises. Snacks for consumption-off-the premises are in increasing demand as catering costs rise. In contrast catering establishments do not require to be registered although their strict conduct is especially important for the protection of the public health.

Again shortage of staff did not allow for much progress in the regular checking of holding temperatures of heated and re-heated meat products. Satisfactory holding temperatures were recorded at three premises checked.

Types of Food Premises

Tabulated below are the number of food premises grouped in categories of trade carried on in them:-

Bakehouses or Bakery Depots	4
Butchers.....	17
Catering Establishments and Clubs.....	27
Factory and Office Canteens	21
Fish (incl. fried).....	8
General Shops	40
Greengrocer/Fruiterers	17
Licensed premises incl. hotels & guest houses.....	41
School Canteens	16
Sweet Confectioners	23
Take-away foods	4
Wholesaler (provision)	4
Nursery, Nursing and Old People's Homes	7
Bakery & confectionery shops	7
Grocery and provisioners ..	10
Off Licence	6
Supermarket	9
Other food premises	8

Food Hygiene

Regular inspection is made of the various food stalls in the Ashford Market held on Saturdays. The Market Company have provided certain facilities required to comply with the Regulations and it has been possible to issue exemption certificates with respect to these matters - currently to eight traders.

The opportunity is afforded (and taken) of incorporating features to comply with Food Hygiene Regulations when plans of new development or extensions are deposited for approval under Building Regulations.

Vehicles used in the retailing and delivery of foods were examined as a routine. With a few exceptions these were found to be up to standard, but a regular routine of checks needs to be adopted. A baker's van and its driver (food handler) were found to contravene the appropriate Regulations and the local Magistrates Court imposed fines totalling to £55.00.

The following lists items of various aspects of food hygiene recorded as receiving attention during routine inspection of food premises:-

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 - Enforcement

	<u>Total</u>
<u>Wounds</u> exposed, warnings given	1
<u>Smoking</u> warnings given	4
<u>Clothes</u> storage made satisfactory	3
<u>First Aid</u> outfits provided or augmented	6
<u>Hand washing labels</u> - provided	6
<u>Hand washing facilities</u> - improved	11
<u>Washing-up facilities</u> - improved	8
<u>Cleanliness</u> generally improved	14
<u>Walls, floors and ceiling finishes</u> improved	14
<u>Lighting</u> made adequate	2

ContinuationFood Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 - Enforcement

	<u>Total</u>
<u>Preparation tops</u> made hygienic	10
<u>Ventilation</u> improved	6
<u>Equipment</u> - cleanliness made satisfactory.....	9
<u>Exposed food</u> - protection improved	10
<u>Temperature</u> control of food, warnings	3
<u>Storage food</u> improved	2
<u>Storage wrapping paper</u> and empties improved	3
<u>Miscellaneous</u> improvements	28

Food Inspection

All foodstuff tabulated below was rejected - as unfit and dealt with as a result of voluntary surrender:-

Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned

		<u>Tons</u>	<u>cwts</u>	<u>lbs</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>cwts</u>	<u>lbs</u>
<u>Meat</u>							
a) Slaughter-	(i) Carcase Meat	1	5	1	2	12	64
house	(ii) Offal	1	7	63			
b) Wholesale	(i) Carcase Meat			60			60
Premises	(ii) Offal		-	-			
c) Retail Shops	(i) Carcase Meat		2	46		2	46
	(ii) Offal		-	-			
Cooked meat and meat products	...	...	...	...			24
Canned Meats	...	...	...	...		1	22
Other canned food	...	...	...	...		2	11
Frozen foods	...	...	...	...		19	80
Fish (fresh)	...	...	...	...	1	15	20
Fruit & Vegetables (fresh)	...	...	...	...			10
Other food	...	...	...	...		4	84

Rejected meat and offal from Ashford Abattoir is now, in accordance with the Meat (Sterilization) Regulations, 1969, removed from the Abattoir in a covered, closed, vehicle to a licensed processing plant near Faversham where it is converted into fertilizers etc. Other foodstuffs are collected by the Department and dumped for immediate covering under refuse at the Council's refuse tip.

The relatively high amount of other foodstuffs disposed of is due to the fact that located in Ashford, are several large food distribution depots.

Food Complaints

There were a total of 29 complaints of foods received all of which received investigation. The opportunity was taken wherever appropriate, to encourage the adoption of methods to prevent a recurrence of the cause for complaint. Most of the complaints are analysed in the following table.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Foreign Matter</u>		<u>Mould</u>
	<u>Number</u>		<u>Number</u>
	<u>Home Produced</u> <u>Food</u>	<u>Imported</u> <u>Food</u>	
Milk	-	-	-
Butter	-	-	-
Cheese	-	-	2
Bread	3	-	2
Canned Meat	-	-	-
Cooked Meat	1	-	-
Meat Pies	1	-	1
Fish	-	-	-
Fruit	-	1	-
Jam	-	-	-
Vegetables	-	-	-
Cereals	1	-	-
Sweets	1	-	-
Confectionery	5	-	1
Other Foods	3	-	1
Totals	15	1	7

There were in addition two reports of dirty milk bottles and there is clearly a need for the public generally to take a more responsible attitude to the use they make of milk bottles, which in spite of shortcomings, seem likely to remain in use as milk containers for the foreseeable future.

Education

A start was made on food hygiene education in Secondary Schools with the permission and co-operation of the respective Heads. In addition, a copy of the film 'Key to Cleanliness' was procured and loaned for showing to schools of secondary education and was also shown to schools catering staffs. It has been particularly well received and regular requests for it are being received.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH

M A T T E R S

Rat and Mice Destruction

Rodent control work was carried out as detailed in the following table:-

Total Premises Inspected as result		Local Authority	Dwellings (incl. Council)	All Other	Agri-culture
1. NOTIFICATION		4 (3)	181(164)	59(63)	1 (-)
No. found infested	Rats	4 (4)	99 (87)	23(27)	1 (-)
	Mice	1 (-)	51 (40)	31(25)	- (-)
2. SURVEY etc.		12 (6)	72(132)	11(20)	8 (2)
No. found	Rats	9 (4)	34 (58)	7 (7)	2 (1)
	Mice	- (-)	11 (3)	- (3)	- (-)
Block Treatment		- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

(Figures given in brackets in the above table are for 1971)

We recorded again a small upward trend in the number of infestations of rats and mice dealt with. A total of 740 lbs. of bait was used in 'topping up' the twenty-one permanent baiting points maintained around the periphery of the district. With one exception infestations of premises were light. There was no evidence of warfarin resistance in rats, but some mouse infestations were only cleared by using direct poisons or alternative means.

In addition to the measures taken for the control of rats on Council-owned sites, such as the refuse dump and sewage works, a free rodent control service is provided for all domestic premises. The service is available on commercial and industrial

premises, for which modest charges are made. Considerable damage was caused in a food warehouse by what was suspected to be a grey squirrel, but all efforts to deal with him (or her) failed.

In order to control rodents in the town's sewerage system, baiting is carried out in the Spring and again in the Autumn, using the techniques recommended by the Ministry to whom we are indebted for arranging training and refresher courses for rodent operatives. In the town centre area all access points are baited because of the presence of old sewers with 'dead eyes' combined with the ready food supplies which enter the system from various food premises. The sewers laid under heavily trafficked street are treated by means of direct poisons, but otherwise Warfarin is used.

Weils Disease

Three cases of dogs dying from Leptospirosis were notified by the local Veterinary Surgeons. These occurred in districts outside the Urban Area and were referred to the Health Inspectors concerned. There were no human infections reported.

Eradication of Vermin

By arrangement with the West Ashford R.D.C. the free disinfection services provided in the Urban area is made available to the Stanhope Estate owned by the Urban District Council, but situate in the Rural District. Four instances of bug and seventeen of flea infestations in the table which follows relate to the Stanhope Estate.

	Bugs	Fleas	Cock- roaches	Ants	Wasps
No. of cases occurring:-					
(a) Council Houses	5(5)	35(30)	6(10)	4(1)	- (8)
(b) Other Houses	-(-)	-(33)	- (1)	4(-)	15(25)
(c) Other Premises	1(-)	- (-)	8(10)	2(5)	2 (5)

Figures in brackets are 1971

The Hospital Group have contracted with a specialist firm for the disinfection of all the Hospitals in the Group's area, so that the service hitherto afforded to the local hospitals, was withdrawn.

Birds appear to adapt themselves with considerable ingenuity to living in, on, and about man-made structures. Their nests, unfortunately, are liable to be infested with insects including moths, mites and certain beetles and other insects. When cases occurred of numerous fleas appearing in baths on the upper storey of Council flats, an examination of the ventilation trunking revealed birds nesting there to be the source of the trouble. This was not finally overcome until the external ventilation openings were 'bird-proofed'. (Architects please note).

Dustbins

The dustbin hire service provided for domestic premises was operated satisfactorily. By the years end some 517 dustbins were in service. Pilot schemes utilizing paper sacks and (in the Grosvenor Estate) plastic sacks are affording the Surveyor useful experience in what one hopes will ultimately be the general method of refuse storage.

Deposit of Poisonous Wastes

From August a procedure for the notification of the removal of waste (apart from certain categories) has been in operation and after a few initial troubles the system is working smoothly and enabling a record of waste and disposal arrangements to be assembled, and some control exercised in this area of potential environmental hazard. During the last quarter of the year notifications of the removal from the area was received of over 10,000 gallons of oily waste, over 150,000 gallons of liquid residues, over 25 tons of solid waste and 150 yards of contaminated earth. In dealing with several disposal problems occurring locally the Council's own chemists were very helpful.

Fly Infestation

A generally satisfactory level of fly control was exercised at the refuse dump which was treated regularly with insecticidal powders. In addition, refuse vehicles were sprayed against flies in the summer and autumn months.

Food Poisoning

No cases of Food Poisoning were reported.

Household Drugs

In co-operation with local pharmacists, a collection of unwanted drugs was undertaken and the material collected, amounting to about half a hundredweight, was duly disposed of.

Albrin Poison

Following newspaper reports of the danger from the sucking of necklaces made from the seeds of Abrus Praetorius a substantial number of African seed necklaces were presented for identification and destruction.

Infectious Disease

A family outbreak occurred of Infective Hepatitis but although there were children of school age, there was no extension of the infection to the School.

The discovery of Pseudomonas aeruginosa in a new-born baby led to the precautionary disinfection of the local maternity wards and nursery after evacuation of all mothers and babies and was accomplished in a single day.

Drains, Sewers and Cesspools

Extension of the sewerage system in the Goat Leas area of Kennington enabled two bungalows to be connected up to main drainage as also were Bybrook House and dwellings in the grounds.

Some sixty-nine sewers (lying in private gardens, courts and passages) and eighty-eight private drains and sewers were cleared of obstructions. There were eighty-four smoke and other tests applied to drainage systems and much time was taken up in tracing the 'ramifications' of old systems of drainage in the town centre area. This was made necessary because of widespread demolition of houses to make way for redevelopment and new roads, with the consequent need to seal off at suitable points to prevent later rat nesting, and damage and smells.

Water Supply

The Mid Kent Water Company are the statutory water undertakers for a large area of Kent including the whole of the Urban District. Only one private dwelling house is known to be supplied from its own well.

The principal source of water is from Godmersham with an authorized extraction rate of up to three million gallons per day. A million-gallon covered service reservoir above Godmersham acts as a balance reservoir. Water from a subsidiary (greensand) source at Charing may reach the northern fringe of the district. Sources originally owned by the Ashford Council at Westwell and Henwood are maintained for standby purposes.

Chlorination of water supplies is maintained as an additional safeguard but regular bacteriological examination and chemical analysis at the sources confirm their excellent quality and the table which follows gives details of the examination of water supplies. Samples are taken by the Health Inspectors every month from points on the distribution system in the Urban Area and examined at the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone which provides a completely independent check.

	<u>Bacteriological Examination</u>		<u>Chemical Analysis</u>	
	<u>Samples Satisfactory</u>	<u>Samples Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Samples Satisfactory</u>	<u>Samples Unsatisfactory</u>
<u>Mid Kent Water Co.</u>				
Treated Water	91	-	13	-
Raw Water	60	-	9	-
<u>Ashford U.D.C</u>				
Treated	26	-	-	-

The water supply is not plumbo solvent. Water derived from the chalk source have a pH of 7.4 and are fairly hard but the degree of hardness is below the limit at which it is officially recognised as necessary to employ a softening process (total hardness 259 ppm., which includes 25 ppm. of non carbonate hardness). The natural fluorine is low, namely 0.085 ppm. in the Godmersham supply, and substantially less than the recommended standard of 1.0 ppm.

The subject of fluoridating the public water supplies with a view to diminishing the rate of dental caries was discussed on several occasions by the Council who finally resolved to urge the Authority responsible (Kent County Council to arrange for the recognized controlled additions to be made.

The Council continued its practice of grant aiding the replacement of any corroded shared service pipes by a separate supply pipe to one house where this work was not included in Improvement Grant work. Some fourteen houses had the replacement aided in this way. Grants authorized totalled £285.09.

Swimming Baths

The public swimming baths is an unheated open-air pool, approximately 100 yards x 25 yards. The large capacity of the pool (600,000 gallons) imposed a twelve-hour turn-over period, through rapid sand filters which maintains a low-level of turbidity. The free chlorine level is maintained above 'break-point' aimed to be between 1 and 2 ppm, whilst soda ash is added to adjust pH and avoid unpleasant eye effects. No samples were taken for bacteriological examination as the free chlorine ensures virtual sterility in the water. Accordingly periodic independent checks were made on chlorine and pH levels, and these were satisfactory.

Similar spot-checks on chlorine level and pH value were taken of the water in the swimming baths at the Ashford Boys Grammar School, Hythe Rd; Willesborough Primary School, Church Rd; and Kennington Primary School, Upper Vicarage Rd., Kennington. In addition, three samples were taken for bacteriological examinations and the results of these and the tests were all satisfactory.

Clean Air Act, 1956

The following table indicates some of the work undertaken under the above Acts:-

Nuisance from bonfires (domestic)	10
Dark smoke from bonfires (non-domestic)	27
Dark and black smoke contraventions noted	6
Furnaces - Notifications of new installations	23
Grit and dust emissions	-
Applications to approve height of chimneys	3
Number such applications approved	3

Three applications for approval of chimney heights serving fairly large furnace installations were dealt with under delegated powers and finally each was approved without 'conditions' being attached. Arrangements were made in the instance of a large office building for scaled wind tunnel tests to be carried out by the Warren Spring Laboratory before reaching agreement on the position and height of the flues. A prosecution for causing dark smoke from burning rubber tyres in order to burn material cleared from a site in the town regrettably failed on a technicality.

Two more instances of acid smut emissions from boiler chimneys have occurred and co-operation of the managements have been secured to take all necessary steps to prevent the nuisance.

In common with experience elsewhere, an increasing proportion of homes are being heated by alternative fuels to coke and other solid fuels. The introduction of oil and gas central heating and electric heating is being helped too by the improvement grant scheme and the Council's policy to switch to gas and electric heating, thereby spreading the heat load over the use of alternative fuels, and at the same time helping materially to reduce atmospheric pollution.

The daily monitoring of the (all important) lower atmosphere for smoke and sulphur content continued at the daily recording station in Regents Place and at the eight-day automatic plant at the Brookfield Community Centre. No significant change has been observed over the period.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Smoke</u>		<u>SO₂</u>	
		<u>Town Centre</u>	<u>South Ashford</u>	<u>Town Centre</u>	<u>South Ashford</u>
Jan.	1972	65	61	67	31
Feb.	"	31	48	73	31
Mar.	"	32	41	65	48
Apr.	"	14	11	47	16
May	"	13	10	26	12
June	"	10	6	14	6
July	"	7	6	10	5
Aug.	"	10	7	12	9
Sept.	"	28	24	21	16
Oct.	"	27	25	32	28
Nov.	"	56	33	44	27
Dec.	"	57	54	40	28

(Figures relate to microgrammes per cubic meter of air: μm^3)

It is of interest to record that Professor Lawther has suggested a tentative value of 250 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for smoke plus 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for sulphur dioxide in the air we breathe (above which sensitive persons have been found to suffer bad effects). Recently the 'long term goal' suggested in the World Health Organization Report on 'Health Hazards' for sulphur oxides is for 98% of observations to be below 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and for smoke 98% of observations below 120 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. These standards may be judged against readily available figures for the two Ashford Monitoring Stations.

Noise

<u>Noise & Vibration Nuisances</u>	<u>Indust- rial</u>	<u>Commer- cial</u>	<u>Domes- tics</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. substantially confirmed	6(2)	2(3)	-(-)	14(3)	22(8)
No. remedied informally	6(2)	2(3)	-(-)	14(2)	22(7)
No. formal notices served	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)

(1971 Figures in brackets)

Whilst odd cases do occur of failure to muffle road breaking equipment, it is fair to record that reasonable co-operation is now usually received. There has been a great deal of clearing activity in the town centre to make way for new roads and redevelopment. In addition the volume of traffic constantly increases. Some time has been spent securing background noise levels before new roads are built and too in connection with proposals to introduce new plant, machinery and factories. These matters are time-consuming and there is an increasing need for staff time to be absorbed on such matters which are having an increasing impact on our environment.

P L A C E S O F W O R K

Factories Act, 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	8	1	2	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	148	43	2	-
3. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' Premises)	8	5	-	-
Total	164	49	4	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			By H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent. (S.4)	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
San. Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	1	1	-	-
Total	4	5	1	-	-

OUTWORKERS - There are 20 Outworkers in the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963
SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1972

1. Record of Inspections

<u>Type of</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>'General'</u> <u>Inspection</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Re-inspec-</u> <u>tions</u>
Offices	155 (135)	34 (20)	14 (13))
Shops	238 (220)	79 (44)	83 (43)) 113
Wholesalers	34 (31)	7 (4)	6 (8)) (78)
Catering	25 (26)	7 (2)	10 (14))

(1971 Figures are given in brackets)

Total Visits - 240 (148)

The aim is to have a 'general' inspection made of every registered premises at least once every four years in addition to the re-inspections carried out for a miscellany of purposes e.g. follow-up, accident investigations and so on. Many of the purposes of the legislation are incidentally attended to when inspections of premises are made primarily for other purposes, as part of an integrated routine. A proportion of this work goes unrecorded. All newly-registered premises are inspected without avoidable delay.

2. Total Persons Employed in Classes of Work in Various Categories of Premises

	Office Work	Shop Work	Whole- sale Work	Cater- ing Work	Canteen Work	Total all Staff	Total Female Staff
Offices	1677 (1525)	11 (11)	75 (68)	1 (1)	11 (11)	1775 (1616)	708 (649)
Shops	113 (124)	1366 (1303)	60 (60)	7 (7)	11 (11)	1557 (1505)	1117 (1052)
Whole- salers	74 (72)	7 (7)	220 (190)	- (-)	- (-)	301 (269)	63 (73)
Cater- ing	3 (3)	3 (4)	- (-)	135 (156)	- (-)	141 (163)	130 (102)
Total	1867 (1724)	1387 (1325)	355 (318)	143 (164)	22 (22)	3774 (3553)	2018 (2006)

It is necessary to remind oneself that the number of persons employed for any one year are approximate only. One should also take into account that the office figures do not include those employed in central or local government. Again there is a continuing trend in shops and catering establishments for part-time employment, which masks the numbers of persons actually employed full time. There is clearly an upward trend in the number of persons employed in office work in the town.

3. Exemption Certificates

None are in operation and none were applied for.

4. Extent of Compliance with the Various Sections of the Act

The tables are compiled from records of visits made to registered premises during the year in relation to 'general' inspections or where a premises is revisited in connection with compliance with a particular requirement of the Act or a Regulation. An increasing number of employers provide accommodation and amenities to a higher standard than the minimum demands by the Act. In practice, it is most valuable to have the opportunity to agree informally when a new building or extension or conversion is planned on steps necessary to meet the requirements of the Act. The co-operation of our colleagues handling the plans submitted for Building Regulation and Planning considerations in the matter is appreciated.

(a)

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u> <u>Notices Served</u>	<u>Notices Complied With</u>
Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	27	-	1
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	28	-	-
Temperature (Sec. 6)	24	2	2
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	26	-	2
Lighting (Sec. 8)	28	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.9)	26	-	2
Washing Facilities (Sec.10)	26	1	1
Drinking Facilities (Sec.11)	27	1	-
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	28	-	-
Seat for Sedentary Work (Sec.14)	28	-	-
Safety Floors, Steps & Staircases (Sec.16)	28	-	-
Safety of Machines (Sec.17)	7	1	-
Risk of bodily injury or health etc. (Sec.22)	28	-	-
First Aid (Sec.24)	23	4	1
Abstracts (Sec.50)	19	1	1

Satis-
factory

Unsatis-
factory
Notices
Served

Notices
Complied
With

(b) Shops

Cleanliness (Sec.4)	66	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec.5)	66	-	-
Temperature (Sec.6)	58	4	4
Ventilation (Sec.7)	65	-	1
Lighting (Sec.8)	65	-	1
San. Conveniences (Sec.9)	62	-	4
Washing Fac. (Sec.10)	66	-	-
Drinking Fac. (Sec.11)	63	2	1
Accdn. Clothing (Sec.12)	64	2	-
Sitting Fac. (Sec.13)	66	-	-
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec.14)	15	-	-
Meal Facilities (Sec.15)	40	-	1
Safety, Floors, Steps & Staircases (Sec.16)	61	4	1
Safety of Machines (Sec.17)	21	-	1
Risk of Bodily Injury (Sec.22)	19	-	1
Heavy Loads (Sec.23)	66	-	-
First Aid (Sec.24)	58	5	3
Abstracts (Sec.50)	49	12	5

(c) Wholesale Dept. or Warehouse

Cleanliness (Sec.4)	9	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec.5)	8	1	-
Temperature (Sec.6)	5	2	2
Ventilation (Sec.7)	8	1	-
Lighting (Sec.8)	9	-	-
San. Convenience (Sec.9)	8	-	1
Washing Fac. (Sec.10)	7	1	1
Drinking Fac. (Sec.11)	9	-	-
Accdn. Clothing (Sec.12)	7	1	1
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec.14)	6	2	-
Safety, Floors, Steps & Staircases (Sec.16)	9	-	-
Safety of Machines (Sec.17)	3	-	-
Risk of Bodily Injury or Health etc. (Sec.22)	9	-	-

<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Notices Complied With</u>
	<u>Notices Served</u>	

(c) Wholesale Dept. of Warehouse (Continued)

Heavy Loads (Sec.23)	9	-	-
First Aid (Sec.24)	9	-	-
Abstracts (Sec.50)	4	3	2

(d) Catering Establishment (Public)

Cleanliness (Sec.4)	5	1	1
Overcrowding (Sec.5)	7	-	-
Temperature (Sec.6)	6	1	-
Ventilation (Sec.7)	7	-	-
Lighting (Sec.8)	7	-	-
San. Convenience (Sec.9)	6	1	-
Washing Fac. (Sec.10)	7	-	-
Drinking Fac. (Sec.11)	7	-	-
Accdn. Clothing (Sec.12)	7	-	-
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec.14)	2	-	-
Safety Floors, Steps & Staircases (Sec.16)	5	2	-
Safety of Machines (Sec.17)	5	-	-
Risk of Bodily Injury or Health etc. (Sec.22)	7	-	-
Heavy Loads (Sec.23)	7	-	-
First Aid (Sec.24)	5	1	1
Abstracts (Sec.50)	7	-	-

(1) Recorded by Workplace - Accidents

	Number Reported		Total No. Investi- gated	Action Recommended			
	Fatal	Non Fatal		Prose- cution	Formal Warning	Infor- mal Advice	No Action
Offices	-(-)	5(1)	5 (1)	-	-	2(-)	3(1)
Retail Shops	-(-)	4(11)	4(11)	-	-	-(3)	4(8)
Wholesale Shops Warehouses	-(-)	1(2)	1 (2)	-	-	-	1(2)
Catering establish- ments open to public, canteens	-(-)	1(-)	1 (-)	-	-	-	1(-)
Fuel Storage Depot	-(-)	-(-)	- (-)	-	-	-	-
Total	-(-)	11(14)	11(14)	-	-	2(3)	9(11)

(Figures in brackets are those for 1971)

(2) Accidents Analysed by Cause

	Office	Retail Shops	Whole- sale Ware- houses	Catering Estabs. open to public, canteens
Machinery	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Transport	2 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)	- (-)
Falls of Persons	- (-)	2 (4)	- (2)	- (-)
Stepping on or striking against object or persons	2 (-)	1 (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Handling Goods	1 (1)	1 (6)	- (-)	1 (-)
Struck by falling object	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Fires and explosions	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Use of hand tools	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Not otherwise specified	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

(Figures in brackets are those for 1971)

The Working of the Act

The practice was followed of 100% follow-up inspection where an accident had occurred, in order to be able to offer advice (where appropriate) in preventing further accidents occurring. I strongly suspect that all accidents are not reported, as it is significant that an undue preponderance of reports come from the best run concerns. There are indications of a need for more direct instructions in the matter of avoidance of accidents. The Department supplies posters and booklets on the subject, but some education in the last year of schooling of non-academic pupils would be a good thing.

No particular problems were encountered in applying the Act. As the town is undergoing rapid expansion of office accommodation and general redevelopment, it is practicable with the co-operation of the Planning Section of the Surveyor's Department to secure compliance with many requirements of the Act from the earliest stages.

